

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:735
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007
HEPATITIS- E VACCINE
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has developed a vaccine for Hepatitis-E;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the trial of the vaccine has been undertaken by ICMR;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the Government proposes to launch the said vaccine?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS)

(a) to (e): National Institute of Virology, Pune, an institute functioning under Indian Council of Medical Research has developed a vaccine for hepatitis-E., employing recombinant DNA technology. Initial experiments were done in mice and then in rhesus monkeys, as the virus can infect rhesus. Complete protection was seen in monkeys. This work is done in collaboration with Serum Institute of India, Pune. Vaccine for clinical trials in humans can be made by Serum Institute after obtaining all the necessary approvals. Only after clinical trials in humans are performed, the vaccine can be made available.